

HB 2388 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Health Care

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Meeting Dates: 2/25

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Defines terms. Requires insurers and medical assistance program (Medicaid) to reimburse for postpartum care for women and children 60 days after delivery. Specifies professions and services that are reimbursable for pregnancy care. Requires insurers to pay a fee to freestanding birthing centers using a methodology that accounts for actual costs and based on good faith negotiations. Specifies the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) must reimburse using a methodology to be developed by the agency according to current law for Medicaid. Requires OHA to reimburse freestanding birthing centers using a uniform payment methodology no later than June 30, 2022. Requires the Department of Consumer and Business Services to report in implementation to the interim committees on health no later than January 15, 2025. Takes effects on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued.

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Freestanding birthing centers are designed to support natural labor and delivery by trained midwives and staff, offer a “family-centered” experience, and provide care before, during, and after normal pregnancy, labor, and birth. Birthing centers use midwives as the primary care providers that work with physicians and hospitals to provide maternity care and are often licensed by states. The Commission for the Accreditation of Birth Centers is an independent authority that accredits birth centers in the U.S. As of January 2021, the Oregon Health Authority licensed 14 birthing centers, which are defined as non-hospital settings where childbirth is planned and occurs away from a private residence.

Oregon licenses three types of midwives: (1) licensed direct entry midwives (LDM) who supervise the labor of childbirth, advise the parent as to the progress of childbirth, and render prenatal, intrapartum, and postpartum care, (2) certified nurse-midwives (CNMs) are advanced-practice nurses who also provide prenatal, birth, and postpartum care in hospitals and birthing centers, and (3) certified professional midwives (CPM) who also provide pregnancy-related services. The Oregon Health Licensing Agency (OHLA) oversees the licensure to direct-entry midwifery (House Bill 2997, 2013).

House Bill 2388 seeks to improve access to midwifery care in Oregon by requiring reimbursement for services by insurers and the state's medical assistance program.